

Teacher Shortage Anyone?

2,000,000 Teachers Needed--In the next ten years, America will need to hire two million teachers to meet rising enrollment demand and replace an aging teaching force. Half of our nation's teachers will retire during this time period.

At a time when educational quality tops the public's list of electoral concerns, urban classrooms across the U.S. continue to suffer serious teacher shortages. Given the expected surge in public school enrollment, the problem of too few teachers is likely to get far worse before it gets better.

Student enrollment, which hit record highs this fall, is projected to continue to grow rapidly during the next ten years. According to the U.S. Department of Education, by 2006, America will educate almost three million more children than today—more than 54 million youngsters.

[The Urban Teacher](#)

[Challenge report](#), released by Recruiting New Teachers, Inc. in January 2000, examined the nation's major urban school districts and found that almost

HELP WANTED Teachers

100% have an urgent need for teachers in at least one high need subject area, such as special education (97.5%), science (97.5%), and math (95%). An acute shortage also exists for bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and educational technology specialists.

About two-thirds

(60%) of these urban districts allow non-certified teachers to teach under an emergency license.

The same percentage allow for hiring of long-term substitutes. In all,

82.5% of districts allow non-credentialed teachers in the classroom.

There is an immediate demand for teachers in a broad range of subject areas. Across grade levels, most districts (97.5%) say they have an immediate demand for special education and 75% of districts say they have immediate demand for teachers in three fields: science (97.5%), mathematics (95%), and bilingual education (72.5%).

CRITICAL SHORTAGE AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE 2001-2002 SCHOOL YEAR

ACCOUSTICALLY HANDICAPPED
ASSOCIATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
CHEMISTRY EDUCATION
EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE EDUCATION
FOREIGN LANGUAGES
GENERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
LEARNING DISABILITIES
MEDIA GENERALIST
MATHEMATICS (5-8)
MUSIC EDUCATION
PHYSICS
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
READING SPECIALIST
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
SPEECH/LANGUAGE SPECIALIST
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (Industrial Arts)
VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

Source: NH Dept of Education Website, <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/Certification/memo.pdf>

More than half of the districts responding to the survey (52.5%) report a need for more elementary teachers. There also is high need (82.5%) for male teachers.

Source: Recruiting New Teachers, Inc. Website; Field Facts, <http://www.rnt.org/index.html>

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